

5. Chauncy Place.

Dec 28. 1849. Sunday afternoon

Dear Caroline

"Having received help, we continue to this present." I will begin in the Henry C. Bright style. Mary is fast asleep in the great chair, the 8 Mrs. Catherine Speer having worshipped at Parker's this morning. Deborah & Eliza are fast asleep in the bed that best was dizzy. I, pretty well, having wear & tear of nerves & a slight cold, sit down to address you. We spent the last two days & our receipts up to now are above \$24.00. We (the western) have had an easier time than last year, partly be- cause we have been more unfortunate in com- modated. & partly because I have been in better health & the weather too has been more favor- able. It is true that the house has not been half as warm as it should have been but a furnace is a furnace, & the air of the whole house could not but be meliorated. Then too we have gone to bed in good season, & the omnibus plant to Roxbury Hall have been a great convenience. The desperate bathing; the sultry & the flury, the thunders & the plagues must of course have been passed through, but after all, the first named is the worst. I am so tired of the whole affair that I can hardly be thankful for getting completely through. I have got mired in the project & feel a sense of injury that I have to put my hand to the work of ruin at all.

Now you can tell how useful the Drunks have been
they have thrown themselves unresistedly on the
altars. They, Mrs L. Kidby & Anna have worked like
slaves. You may see open (as upon science thoughts I
never opened any before) you may open them my
best congratulations to Hubert in respect of Kidby
for he will surely have a most helpful and
self sacrificing wife. They all came into Faneuil
Hall, day after day with their "bottle & bag" to mark;
then Kidby & Anna came in to turn the scale the last
unay before the fair opened, they came to see all
they could. That was a pretty severe day. I had
not been down to any turnings, nor had Mary.
But she & I went down to see the French
Boxes, two of which had arrived. Of course we
thought it best that they be taken forth with
to Faneuil Hall. By this time a most dreadful
snow had come on wind blowing rain and snow
& fleet all coming down together & I was as I always
am, some hours in my box. I was not strong
enough to unpack the box. I could only fit
at a bottle & pull off the plates. D. could not
leave the Hall where he was in constant demand,
to divide the Drunks & the Belling Cat & Mary
unpacked the box, the one containing the chin
gloves etc. Every thing of the chinal kind were
perfectly safe, save one tapering little thing I
forget what that was broken. Now in this
matter you oblige the gloves. I impute the di-
sorder of their spotting to their being packed in
the same box with the chin.

been the straw which seemed very damp. The things
over the water took extremely well and begged
us not to tell Emma; but I told them I thought
it all worse not to tell the whole truth. Mrs
D. says that they have by the help of ammonia
quite cleaned them. Well the things were pro-
mised very beautiful & all unbroken, & Mary
went home, & thinking of the experiment soon
came to see to her affairs, & then as we began
to look over things, we found the beautiful
boxes, the objets de Paris, & stuck over with the
silver paper that as we pulled it off the varnish
came with it. Every box was stuck up, & every
place where the paper was pulled off made a spot.
Louisa Drury sent out for oil to rub off the paper
with; it did no good. By this time, though the
show was already due, it was agreed that Louisa
must go home to dinner last. Mary should wait,
D. was in the Hall evening, no food passing
her lips that day. I perfectly stupefied, let down
by the state in the representation room. I was too
poorly to have much desire for any thing
but to get warm. Louisa had gone into the guest
hall leaving Mr Drury (the expert in entomology)
dealing w/ the boxes. I could not have interfered
to save \$1000. I only had an intellectual perception
of what was going on, so there I sat, & Mr Drury
talked, some time with flannel & oil, & sometimes
as it seemed to my sisterless nerves with a
diseased look, which did not even & now she could
not be moved. "O human vanity & human helplessness!"

mentally cried I. There you are bijoux, these
articles that are to be treated like precious
stones & then I ran over to myself the terms of
Marie's letter. Here they are; entered at the meeting
of Mr. Dring. I had a dim idea then that I would
give you this as a sort of Jobean Oracle, but
to fully imagine it, do not forget the storm, or
get me like Emma in much the same state as
when I lay on the couch in the best chamber last
winter. "Ah thought I, I can't lay down my life over
those bones." Just then in came Tom with Tom
Shore Richards & Duriv. A council of war was held
Tom's house was sent up to some Paint fitter maker.
He came down, said that they could all be painted
over to look better than before, that he would
carry them all home, & let us have half, now on
the next Tuesday, we could do it all for £3. He didn't
be slow in his work painting beautifully &
then for they have sole beauty, a par-
cel of South Boston or East Boston having the
box with the name painting thereon. We could have
brought another for Miss Reynolds, & I believe Mr.
Pulman has Emma's just now come. Did Emma
put her preserved orange in the green glass tumbler?
It had some sugar at the bottom & seemed sticky
at the sides. But we never saw any of any
orange. Mary us packed it, but she could not
remember there there was any thing in it, & we
concluded the sugar never come. Mary R. brought
the box for Aunt Margaret. The
glass was pronounced exquisite; not a mite of it
broken.

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All of it was sold with the exception of the tea &
coffee & one or two little pieces. John King had the
little delicate jar of gin. The earthenware, which
certainly was the most beautiful thing in the
whole. Mrs Richards (see Symmes) bought the
\$14. I apprehend that she & her fellow bidders
intended to buy it & then see to supply it among
themselves at home. The little Sevres cream-pot for
\$50 was bought by Mother Robeson who came
in with Mrs Morgan. Clara & a daughter of Tom
Robeson. Poor Mrs M. looked as if all her bones
& pillars had gone over her. She looked like a person
whose soul has it were left the body. but who is yet
alive in a sort of heat taken now to go through the
delicacies of life. She seems as else ^{as} Mrs Chapman
when she died. Clara is a fine, bright looking
girl. Debonair wife poor Mrs Tucker was a good deal
overcome at entering the hall. Miss Catherine
Palmer bought one Spode violet. Mr Avery the
other, also two beautiful chine vases. The large green
flower pot we sold for \$8.50 to Seth Spargo, little
Seth. You never saw a creature so changed in your
life. I will the figure of the pretty little red
cheeked boy before me could not believe it
was he, but Mary Rotten assured me it was. He
is a tall, pale, thin, pimpmalicious person, that you
would imagine never smiled. His wife was not with
him, but another lady. He came in several times.
I have run over in this way on your things
thinking you would like to know just how they
all went. You must not feel very bad by above
the caps, for they were exquisite & came up, but

they have not sold. I do not believe we have
sold more than \$2. We have covered the price
\$1 on each. On May 8 some others wanted us
to put them down very low to 2 or 3 dollars, but I
told them I had written they would not sell. We
shall be careful of them & look them up & keep
for next. You need not send any then. I suppose
that at the late Fair old swaggers came who
do not come here. Indeed poor Mr Shaw could
not go any where this year. Mrs Putnam too
brought 3 caps last year & has bought none this
year. It does not appear to me to have been the
price that deterred people. We have not as yet
had many cap customers. Young lady May has not
been in except now & then as a customer. The
old lady has been there the whole time very
helpful. At the Edinburgh Table in the old
place down Mrs Spear. I wrote to her to come & she
came & is staying here. She works very pretty &
is the same nice lady like person. Mrs George
Russel helped her sell a little, but finding it so
full out that Mrs Russel asked Mrs Taff (whom
I was trying to out) to take the place & she has
staid there ever since. Mrs Taff has brought her
niece Ellen who went directly behind tables, took
off her bonnet & began to comb. She ran up an
intimacy with a troublesome niece of Mrs May's no
abrester it, who is helping her & keeping a Table
day; this made it difficult to do any thing with
her. tho' I hate her manners, but one day two
stone workers came in & she fell into great intimacy
with them, & told them she was nothing of an
Abolitionist & talked all sorts of pro slavery. This made

a great talk, & I finall^y went to Mrs Taff & 4
wh^{ch} she I did not wish her sister there as a
sales woman; we could have none but abolitionists.
Mrs Taff fell a crying & there was a great deal
of talk & Mrs T. said they should all feel greatly
mortified at her being sent off & promised that
she should be silent. I thought I could not wait
on her going, particularly as the whole train was
talking & tottering, but I shall take measures
next year to keep all the Taylor family out of
I can, for old Taylor is there every day frightening
the course & making all the rest they can. They
are a most amus^g ing set of folks, for in addition
to every thing else I think they are a little crazy.

The Edinburgh Table is a most beautiful one.
There were 3 very handsome Ayrshire Baskets.
One Wendee brought, & Joe Kirklees had one. Joe and
Fanny came down for several days. Fanny is about to
have another baby. Next comes Perth. There is also
a most elegant table. There are the Southern
& the Wellington. Next the Dublin Table & the H.
B. Stevens together. There was Nanny Sampson & Mrs
Parkes. Nanny brought very nice things and
some most beautiful pieces made by young
scholars. Next Roxbury & Cambridge come next
with Misses Ware & Willard. They had a good
table and Mrs Russell had her usual beautiful
assortment of Fayal Baskets. Every one has a lot of
cure. Then comes the small tables of Salem, & Upton
etc. Miss Hale & her sister for law come this time
with their usual trifles not with her been presented
by subscription to Garrison. The Rep^{re}sumine Table
Mrs Greene takes charge of & she has done very well
Mrs Smith has been in for one day but she is looking
very poorly. She will

One in a few words what had ailed her, she had had
an abscess in the upper part of her bowels, there it had
really compressed her lungs & she had suffered a
great deal & thought she should never be ~~back~~ better
but now she felt encouraged. The Hingham people have
sent a beautiful assortment of provision, cake etc. Also
Miss Threan came with a very handsome little sum
Concord which was of course put on to the usual
table. Mrs Brooks wrote that we must get Miss Threan
a place, now we had us here three Worcester ladies
to come and stay at Channing H. but they did not
come, so we still expect Miss Wymann - well, Mary
agreed to take in Miss Threan. She came & was amply
received & all was in velvet. The next day came
Miss - Blumber. She married up to Murray with
great compromise & asked if we could stay with her
through the Fair. Miss Threan, she said had told
her she could keep with her. I thought this ex-
tremely ungenerous of Miss Threan. They replied to
Miss Janni that she would consult Miss Weston. I
after consultation went to Miss Threan & told her
that Miss Chapman would be happy to have Miss
Janni here the night at Channing H if the Miss
Threan ~~would~~ were willing to take her into her
small bed; that Miss Chapman had made all
her arrangements, & it was most convenient for
her to ask more friends. I was resolved to put
down this ungenerousness on Miss Janni's part who
I supposed considered C. Blumber her own nurse.
Miss J. accordingly went home & said that night
& next morning went sailing off & the day after
Miss Threan went too, now as a March hare I
suppose, but I am perfectly resigned. They were
both (the Union girls) perfectly nursing at the
Refreshment Table, but I was perfectly Miss Threan ^{MS. A. 9. 24. 116} ~~there~~

I shall explain the whole matter to Miss Brooks when
she comes to the Annual Meeting. She came down for
a day & brought a \$15 shawl. Miss Aldrich and
another Upton lady is down with a small table but
they find their own place. Miss Tufts is behaving much
as usual, offering a China tea set for \$15 and not
paying in but \$7 saying that she drops the money
into her box as she gets it. She also introduces three
or four young people to the expensive worn in
clad in Dr Gregg's daughter. Miss Willey & Miss Rogers
have a beautiful table from seeds and Bridgewater
& Betsy Bowles & her cousin take care of Bristol.
Bristol was very handsome indeed, all the things
good. The Book Table never was handsome. The
32 Box of China owing to a storm on the sound
did not get in till the day ^{after} the Fair opened. It
was carried into the gallery & divided. Kidy & I
opened it. Poor Kidy had on a beautiful pink
bonnet & elegant wrought cuffs, but she went in
in a mire. She lace & ribbon mingling with the
snow. We trembled as we opened the sliding boxes
and took out the treasures. Not a thing was
injured and we thought there never were such
beautiful things in the world. We longed for
the Shepherd & Shepherdess on selves. Every thing
was safe except one glass side of a child's bream.
I guarded the gallery & Kidy & division can with
the packages. I do not think we shall sell
many of the Douglass's life. Many can prefer
Mrs. Norton's recent splendid things. Mrs. Henry
Kidy ^{and} Anna & Lizzie are the tenders. You may
think ^{that} there has been a most dreadful misfortune
Some how it is strange to get through a
Fair without being ^{than} any of the rest of you.

We have had speaking but once as yet. We did not get it up till Friday. Then Wendell spoke & very well too to quite a good audience. Russell Carpenter was in to hear him with the Waters. After it was over he was brought up by Wendell at his request & introduced. He is a little more a quiet looking person, with nothing impressive either in manner or mien. He appeared flurried and anxious and desirous to give but a few words. Thanked me for sending him a ticket & apologized for the whole tour from Bristol being so large. I complimented all the Bristol & Weymouth things & was as polite as I knew how to be but he was glad to get away. He is here & gone with Garrison but does not wish to have any strife with us. Mr May has had some very warm right talk with him I believe. I thought before he came, I should have to ask him to Weymouth, but there is not the least use in the visit. He has seen all he wishes to & I fancy. He told me he was very glad to have heard Wendell Saturday night it was stormy & to see had no speaking. But I can write no more at present.

Weymouth Sunday Jan 6. 1850. I never was able to write any more in Boston. But praised be the spirits here are L & I pretty safe at home. D. is still in town, gathering up the fragments. Last Sunday Mary received a letter from Mrs Bates. It was quite long & full of agreeable chat. Very probably you have seen the Bateses ever they as Mrs B. spoke of going to Paris if Mr B. could get the time. They had been having a great deal of company at Sheep, Lads & ladies. Mr Wm de

Weyers mother etc. As Queen Adelina was at the
last gasp & there would be a long court
morning, Mrs Waller was very anxious to get a
piece of black crepe & wished Mary after breaking
fast with Mrs Tom went to go & buy it, &
have it made into two petticoats & then get some
mind to take it. Mary has been to see Mrs W.
& found there is no difficulty about getting it
but has no private way to send it. She goes
about sending it to Mr Benson, but I told her
& thought it would not do to trouble him with
any such business, gentle men hate to have
any thing to do with smuggling articles. Also
Mr B. wants a piece of white German silk for
linings. She recd. in her envelope that her
letter was like bowlines in quantity if not in
quality. She said she had not had a line from
any of the Chapman tribe since Mary left.
Deborah went to the Post office & made the
clerks promise to stop any letters that were for
us & to do a night, the clerk however came
up to查明 of Mr. B. knowing the letters that
were sent over to England by Mr. Hubbard.
We were a good deal disappointed at hearing
nothing as to were from Caroline & Emma, & very
soon to hear of C. & Emma. We thought Mary's
hand writing must be improved. We cherished the
hope that there were like letters to come. by
Greene, nor were we disappointed for on
Tuesday when Newell came in from Weymouth
he brought them. We thought Emma had
done gloriously. We think that the appearance
of the Belvoir is a beautifull thing & hope

You will all see a great deal of them. Mrs. Rotoni had received Anna's letter & was very much pleased. She wrote it in for me to read & I thought it was a very good letter. It had a comic side to it, being sent all round Anna's in to have it when it came back from Mrs. Phillips's. I read part of it to Mrs. Weston & Hennet & we all agreed that she is Lady Mary or Mad de Bourgh. You need not fear that I read any thing improper. I can read letters in it properly at sight & some are you would wish. I am glad you liked Baskerville well; but am surprised that she excelled Fanny Kemble and Mrs. Weston. How was it that Hulbert succeeded so well in England? How did he get a government with Mr. Spencer? — But now I ought to make a new sheet to tell you about Miss Bremner's visit. I thought to the night to send her a note of invitation, enclosing one of the little notes & two tickets. It came her at Mr. Lowell's where she had been staying a fortnight. Mrs. L. came over to the Fair & brought one of the boxes we were glories (if I may so speak) every one of those boxes was things sold. She said that she thought Miss Bremner would come Monday. Well the day came & as it appeared the women. Mrs. Doding did not come to see her & so went off, & came back fortunately from Mrs. Weston & Hulbert declining being introduced. I do not know what killed them all. It was about 2 & no body in the Hall, & the tenders on the part of being summoned to dinner when Mr. Benson entered, with Miss Bremner on his arm. She was dressed in a dark satin cloak, some sort of colour

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scarf round her neck, a white bonnet & white
lame veil I ran up to the Book Table to give the
alarm & was just descending the steps when I met
her. Mr. B. introduced me. Mary then came
forward. There was a little talk, about her health
& Fannie Hale, & then I went round the room
with her. I hate to do it, but there was nobody
else that I thought would do any better. Mrs.
Living not being there. On these occasions Miss
& Mrs. Follett are greatly missed. It is a great bore
to me to talk to great ladies & do the honors.
Now eve nothing could be more gracious &
amiable than of Miss B's manner. She behaved
extremely well in all respects. Her English is
quite good, so good that one, with a little effort
can understand all she says. She is extremely
plain as respects personal beauty. She is above 50
with hair as gray as Aunt Phoebe's. large blue eyes,
not handsome eyes, no very good features, but the
whole expression of the face is so full of kindness &
amiability that it is a pleasing one. She has a most
enormous nose, so that every body supposes her
the original of her own Petee. She like Petee
has one beauty, the prettiest little white hands
imaginable. Well, I introduced most of the
Ladies behind the Tables to me, & some others
came up & requested an introduction, & one
or two people in the Hall came up & asked
to shake hands with her, & she was gracious to
all, & received all with pleasure & friendliness. She
brought \$12 or 15 worth. She bought the bronze cork
for \$5, a little portfolio from Lott to be used as a
143 foot shore for 2.50. 2 of your Fanchon & other
things. I gave her

the French copy of Douglass' life, & he politely
asked me to write her & my name therein which
of course I did. The collector & lemming come
& Mr Drake begged her to accept of them which
she did, tho' begging to be allowed to pay for
me, but Mr D. assured her how highly compli-
mented the Lewesite people would feel at her
accepting any of their work & so forth. Miss Scott's
imp (not a very bad child, altho' Dr Gregg's) asked
her to put her hand in the gold Box which
she did. I was worn to a thread by the time
she had gone through the Hall, but she seemed
pleased, & graciously kissed her hand to Mary
& when she turned from the Table. The next day
she & Mr B. came in for a moment, merely
that she might buy one of our pretty Scotch
shaws. It was a Jenny Lind. The day before,
no the very day I left town I called with
Mary to see her. She is staying with Mr Beyer
in Penikney St & is to be there till after
the leaves. She was engaged & could not see us.
This time says she she sees her Monday
from 12 to 3 I believe. She has been in delicate
health but is better. How ever you will see
her first & can ask her all about her.
Monday & Tuesday were very drizzling days at
the Fair - Monday night Jan 7. Wednesday was
of the same character, but on Thursday, our
last day, we were off in a blaze of glory, taking
\$411. I forgot to say that Tuesday morning as

I was reading Emma's letter quietly to myself
behind my table, I was aroused by Miss Beneke
who had come for a few moments. I don't
know however but I have written this. I must tell
you one good thing. One of the publishing firms from
the Republican Office came to Janeine Hale
to know if we would not advertise in the
paper. He was sent up to Cheamery OK to see
I explained succinctly to him that we could
not think of such a thing, the Republican &
Emancipator having been joined, that the latter
paper was ours, had been very freely taken from
us & that our property in it would never cease
& that we could not recognize the rightfulness
of such a transaction by advertising in it. He
then seemed disconcerted for a moment, but rallied
& said "but ma'am, you advertised in it last year."
"Yes," said I "before I knew the Republican had
been united with the Emancipator. As soon as I
knew of it, the advertisements were stopped." "Good
day," said he "Good day Sir" said I. Mr Cornelius
Conway is married to a Mrs Ruth Stranger. Some
people say her character is rather lightly spoken of.
It has given great regret to all his friends I
believe. The woman was a deep mink & has been
divorced from her first husband. He was at the
Fair very bright & bringing his daughter, as I met
his new wife with him. I did not see her, but
Lucie thought her by no means pretty enough to

ai come for this step. Sylva Green was at the
Fair newly to see us, looking well & pretty true
desperately. We sent two French books to her Dizzy.
Mrs. Mark & her husband too both come, looking
very well. He is in an especially manner. He says
that Minotti is married in England to a woman
of fortune. I send herewith a letter from her. You
must do what you think fit. It is some thing of
a responsibility to get a person to leave their
own country but perhaps there are some wishing
to do it. Her husband is dead. He fell dead on the
work bench in Boston, it was supposed of a stroke
complaint. His wife & Esther are in much grief.
Mrs. Fifield's arm has troubled her greatly. She
has consulted Dr. Warner & he has ordered
& visitors & she is now up stairs with them on.
I read Shirley in N. J. It was an interesting
book. tho' I could not see with Moore's opinion
privately to Shirley & could not bear Louis Moore, &
was entirely disengaged with the latter part of the
book making of Louis & Shirley. Caroline is a very
pretty character well polished through the whole.
I do like the Curtes & the Yorkes. - We were ex-
pecting D. to night but he does not come. He will
tomorrow. He says Mr. H. Codman is dead, died
in a fit. He & Mary have been to see Miss
Bremer, & she liked her. He also sends a package
to go from Mr. Russell to Mrs. Green. Give much
love to darling Nancy. I will write her next time
also much love to Mrs. Green, Susan & Charles
& kind regards to Mr. Gibbs when he gets to you.
He says Mr. Baker is talkings of a new partying
Nancy to N. J. Sarah Loring is still in town at Mrs.
Parker's going to the opera etc. I will send her a box of
gold. Mrs. Green Almon

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